The Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based HIV vaccine is in developing stage involving lot of complex and complicated steps and has not reached the state of clinical trial.

Promotion of ISM

†454. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are quite indifferent to boost Indian Systems of Medicine in the country whereas special importance is being given to treatment through Ayurveda System abroad;

(b) if so, the funds provided by Government to each State during the last five years, to encourage Indian Systems of Medicine particularly the Ayurveda System, year-wise;

(c) whether funds allocated by Government to State Governments do not match their demands; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government has taken several steps to develop and propagate Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy in the country. It has also taken steps to propagate ISM outside the country.

(b) to (d) The Department has been implementing schemes for promotion and propagation of the Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy including Ayurveda under which financial assistance is provided to various Government organisations/institutions and NGOs as per provisions of the respective schemes. State-wise allocation is not being made by this Department.

Prevention of consumption of Pan, Gutkha etc.

†455. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of fatal diseases amongst persons in the habit of taking Pan, Gutkha, Cigarette and Liquor are increasing all over the country at a fast pace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prevention of consumption of above items is being obstructed by the producers of the above items who are very pewerful and have very firm hold; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government for preventing consumption of the said items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information on time trends of deaths due to use of tobacco products and alcohol is not available. Studies on tobacco related diseases indicate that about 8 lakh persons.in India die every year due to tobacco use, and several of them suffer from cancer, heart and lung diseases. Frequent use of alcohol is associated with diseases of various organ systems namely, gastrointestinal system, cardiovascular system, central nervous system, liver cirrhosis, etc. It is estimated that more than 20% of accident related head injury is associated with alcohol consumption.

(c) and (d) In order to discourage the use of tobacco products, the Government has introduced a comprehensive Bill, namely "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 in the Rajya Sabha. This bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, which has submitted the report.The report is under consideration of the Ministry.

News-item, "And Safdarjung Hospital stinks for want of water"

456. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "And Safdarjung Hospital stinks for want of water", which appeared in the Statesman, dated the 18th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto; and